

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 2 and 8 recite allowable subject matter. Without prejudice or disclaimer, for purposes of expedition, applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 8 respectively. Applicants have further amended claims 1 and 7 and their dependents to remove "means plus function" language so the claims are not subject to being interpreted under the sixth paragraph of 35 USC 112. Applicants have made a few additional amendments to improve clarity.

Applicants have also added new independent claims 13 and 14. New claim 13 is a method claim, and new claim 14 is a corresponding data storage claim. Applicants believe the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter will also apply to claims 13 and 14. For example, new claims 13 and 14 each include limitations of "restrict[ing] the number of times the background character can be copied to generate said object data of the copy object" and "generat[ing] the background image including the background character having displayed therein the number of times the background character can be copied for display" which are similar to limitations of dependent claim 2 the Examiner indicated as allowable. However, applicants would appreciate the Examiner's careful review of these new claims.

Applicants have also amended their title to make it more descriptive, and have amended their specification to add headings and to correct minor grammatical and other wording issues. A proposed substitute specification is also attached.

All outstanding issues have been addressed. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number

listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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